

D-364  
Dixon Block  
Cambridge  
1897-1900

Dating from the late years of the nineteenth century, the Dixon block is distinguished for its relatively intact High Street elevation that includes a two-tone stretcher bond brick façade with accents of rusticated brownstone as a stringcourse, that doubles as window sills, pilaster capitals, and window lintels. Although the first floor storefronts have been modified, the mid level cornice retains a Colonial Revival pressed metal frieze of volutes in a repeating circular pattern. The main elevation is enhanced as well by an intact pressed metal main cornice distinguished by a regular series of brackets and frieze decoration. The commercial block originally incorporated three units across the front with a fourth commercial space in a two-story gable roofed brick wing to the rear.

Dating from Colonel W. Lee Dixon's period of ownership, the two-story, six-bay stretcher bond brick block was assembled between 1897 and 1900 by indications on the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn insurance maps. This lot is vacant on the 1896 map, but the building is located at this site on the map printed in 1901. Colonel Dixon financed many buildings throughout the business district after the destructive 1892 fire. In 1901 he underwrote the construction of the three-and-a-half story Cambridge Hotel on the corner of High and Church streets. (See D-345) When the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map was published the Dixon block houses a bicycle shop in the western storefront, an undertaker in the center unit, and a cigar store and pool room in the eastern end. To the rear there was a marble works associated with the undertaker's business. During the mid to late

twentieth century the building housed many different businesses including the High Spot Restaurant.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-364

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dixon Block  
other High Spot Restaurant

## 2. Location

street and number 303-309 High Street not for publication  
city, town Cambridge vicinity  
county Dorchester

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 303 High Street, LLC  
street and number 519 11<sup>th</sup> Street SE telephone  
city, town Washington state DC zip code 20003-2831

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 764 folio 1  
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 25 tax ID number 07-138350

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Current Function                                   | Resource Count  |
|---|---|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture               | Contributing    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape                 | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | 1               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> defense                   |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic                  |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> education                 |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary                  |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> government                | 1               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> health care               |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                  |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture        |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                  |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> social                    |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation            |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress          |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown                   |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use         |                 |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                    |                 |

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-364

### Condition

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dixon Block, located at 303-309 High Street, is a two-story, six-bay by five-bay commercial building located in the central business district of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story stretcher bond brick structure, erected between 1897 and 1900, is comprised of three store units, although the original first floor fronts have been altered. The brickwork above the first story is laid in two contrasting colors in stretcher bond with narrow butter joints. The top of the building is defined by a bold pressed metal cornice. The roof slopes from a high point in front to a lower two-story elevation in back and a two-story, one-room wide, common bond brick wing extends from the back of the building. Infilling the northeast corner is a single-story concrete block addition to the High Spot Restaurant section.

The southeast (main) elevation of the Dixon commercial block has a altered series of storefronts with a various combination of mid twentieth century materials including infill glass blocks on the High Spot Restaurant section along with replacement doors and windows in other bays. Stretching across the top of the first floor is a pressed metal frieze of repeating volutes that is terminated at each end by decorative pressed metal capitals which accent plain pressed metal pilasters remaining on the outside corners of the first floor front. The second story is executed in a two-color brick design with seven tannish orange brick pilasters on each side of recessed panels of beige colored brick which are pierced by single pane sash windows. Accented the base of each pilaster and stretching across the full front of the second floor elevation is rusticated reddish-brown stone beltcourse. The rusticated brownstone is repeated as pilaster highlights and window lintels across the second floor as well. Another decorative feature is the corbelled and dentiled brickwork at the top of each recessed panel. Fixed above the second floor window level is a wall section of stretcher bond brick pierced by three evenly spaced decorative rectangular vents. The top of the wall is finished with a bold pressed metal cornice that is visually divided into eight sections with heavy Victorian brackets. The space between each pair of brackets is enriched with pressed metal decoration as well.

The northeast and southwest side elevations are laid in seven-course common bond red brick, and each wall surface is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of one-over-one and two-over-two sash windows. Some of the windows are boarded over, and some retain brick jack arches. Some first floor windows retain metal bars. Brick stove flue chimneys rise through the side wall in several places.

Extending to the rear of the main block is a two-story gable-roofed wing laid in five-course common bond. Surviving window openings have not been blocked or covered over have two-over-two sash windows and brick jack arches. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The rear gable end has a second floor access door opening topped by a brick jack arch. There is a small vent in the brickwork within the gable end. The edge of the roof is finished with a plain bargeboard. The roof is covered with metal.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-364

| Period  | Areas of Significance                            | Check and justify below                               |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine        | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology              | <input type="checkbox"/> education                    | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-                | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage              | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/<br>settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history       | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____        |

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Dating from the late years of the nineteenth century, the Dixon Block is distinguished for its relatively intact High Street elevation that includes a two-tone stretcher bond brick elevation with accents of brownstone as a stringcourse, that doubles as windows sills, pilaster capitals, and window lintels. Although the first floor storefronts have been modified, the mid level cornice retains a Colonial Revival pressed metal frieze of volutes in a repeating circular pattern. The main elevation is enhanced as well by an intact pressed metal cornice distinguished by a regular series of brackets and frieze decoration. The commercial block originally incorporated three units across the front with a fourth commercial space in a two-story gable roofed brick wing to the rear.

Dating from Colonel W. Lee Dixon's period of ownership, the two-story, six-bay stretcher bond brick block was assembled between 1897 and 1900 by indications on the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn insurance maps. The lot is vacant in 1896, but the building is standing by 1901. Colonel Dixon financed many buildings through the business district following the destructive 1892 city fire. In 1901 he financed construction of the three-and-a-half story Cambridge Hotel in 1901. (See D-345) When the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map was published the Dixon block housed a bicycle shop in the western storefront, an undertaker in the center and a cigar store and pool room in the eastern end. To the rear there was a marble works associated with the undertaker's business. During the mid to late twentieth century the building has housed many different businesses including the High Spot restaurant.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-364

Name Dixon Block

Number 8 Page 1

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CHAIN-OF-TITLE  
303-309 High Street  
Map 301, Parcel 25

MLB 764/1

Barker's Landing Corporation

to

10.12.2006

303 High Street, LLC

(aka 113-119 High Street)

530/811

Theodore Robbins, II

to

6.23.2003

Barker's Landing Corporation

\$330,000.00

182/215

Theodore Robbins, II, Personal Representative of the Estate  
of Anna Mae Robbins

to

11.2.1973

Theodore Robbins II

Second Item: 113-119 High Street

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-364

Name        Dixon Block

Number   8   Page 2

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PLC 115/405

Charles E. Edmundson

to

7.20.1959

Theodore Robbins and Anna Mae Robbins

An undivided half-interest

115/401

Theodore Robbins and Anna Mae Robbins

to

7.20.1959

Charles E. Edmundson

(upon the death of Jacob H. Robbins, who died intestate on or about 4.18.1969, Eva P. Robbins, his widow, became vested in one half interest)

RSM 56/484

Adeline R. Henry, widow of N.Y., N.Y.

to

12.7.1945

Jacob H. Robbins and Theodore Robbins, tenants in common

CL 33/331

Levi D. Travers, et al. (Duncan Noble, Daniel B. Prettyman, Emerson C. Harrington, Benjamin L. Smith, Trustees)

to

9.2.1907

Clement S. Henry

Whereas Levi D. Travers, Sr. late of Dorchester County, dec'd.

\$3,560.00

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-364

Name        Dixon Block

Number   8   Page 3

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CL 28/389

W. Lee Dixon

to

9.14.1903

Levi D. Travers, bachelor

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-364

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 13,191 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 13,191 square feet  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

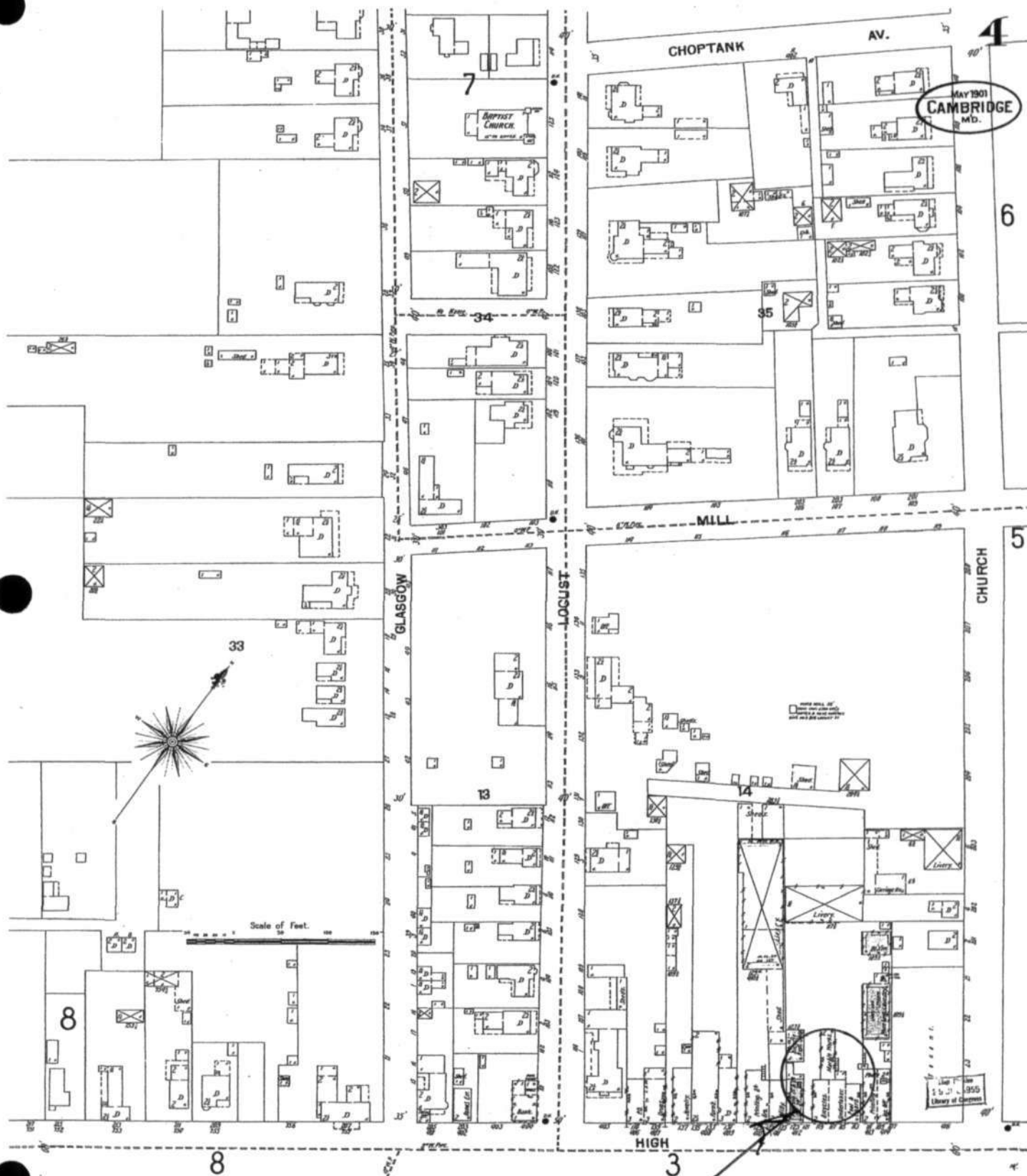
|                 |  |           |                |
|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| name/title      | Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian    |           |                |
| organization    | Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation | date      | 9/22/2007      |
| street & number | P. O. Box 5                                | telephone | 410-651-1094   |
| city or town    | Westover                                   | state     | Maryland 21871 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

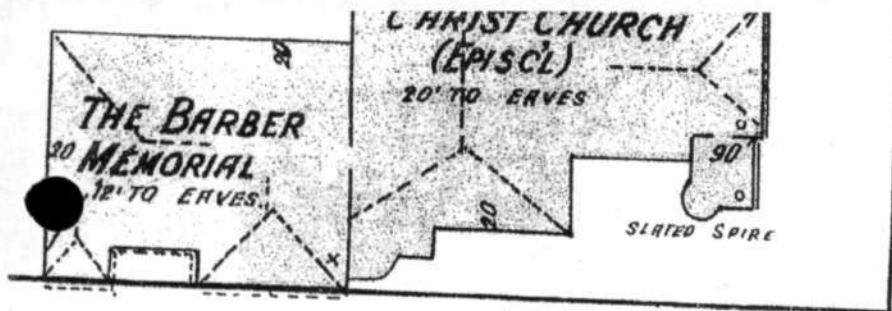
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





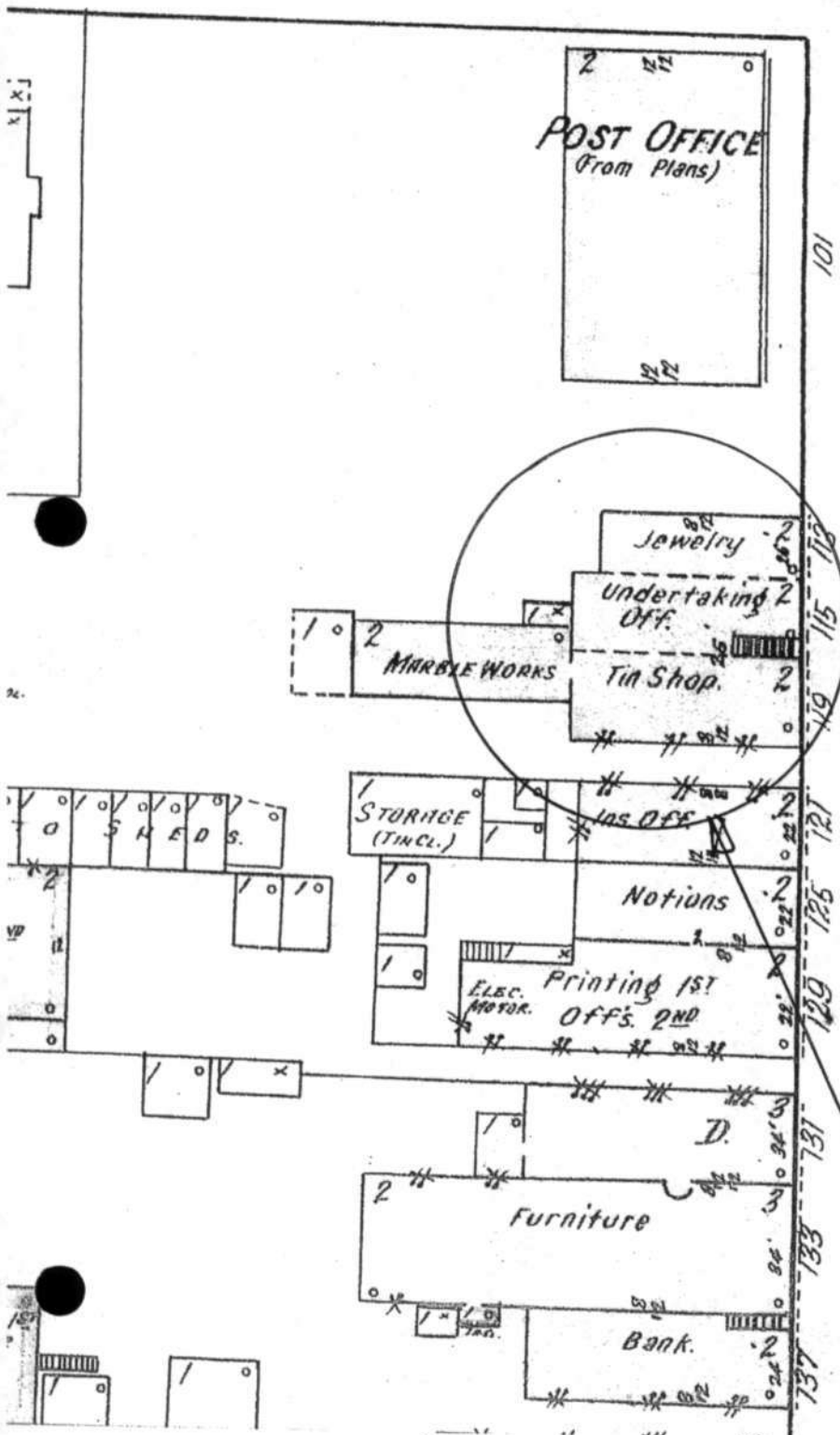
D-364, Dixon Block, 303-309 High  
Cambridge  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901



DH.

SPRING ST.

HIGH 8<sup>TH</sup> 6<sup>TH</sup> 12<sup>TH</sup>



5

D-364, Dixon Block, 303-309 High  
1918 Sanborn Insurance Map



D-364, Dixon Block, 303-309 High Street, Cambridge



D-364

DIXON BLOCK

303-309 HIGH STREET

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO. MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOWALT, PHOTOGRAPHIC

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-364

DIXON BLOCK

303-309 IGAIT STREET

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NET, 1 MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D-364

1003644611

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

High Spot Restaurant; Solid Rock Bookstore

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

303-309 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

#### PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Theodore Robbins II

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Paw Paw

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21613

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 182

Folio #: 215

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

D-364

## CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

—DETERIORATED

—GOOD

—RUINS

X FAIR

—UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

X ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built of brown brick, this two story commercial structure bears similarities to the old Phillips Hardware Store at the corner of Race and Muir Streets, as well as to 450-452 Race Street (McCroy's) and to 444-446-448 Race Street (Western Auto and Stelens). All of these buildings employ two contrasting colors of brick, slightly recessed corbeled brick rectangles to accentuate each bay, and have pressed tin cornices. These buildings were probably designed by J. Benjamin Brown. The upper stories of this building remain unaltered, although the cornices are in need of paint. The two "storefronts" have been renovated on the first story. There are six windows across the second story, and each of these windows has a flat arch above of a dark brown stone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                  | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                     | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                      | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although renovated on the first story, the upper story of this building is typical of late 19th century commercial architecture and contributes to the character of this block.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/4/75

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

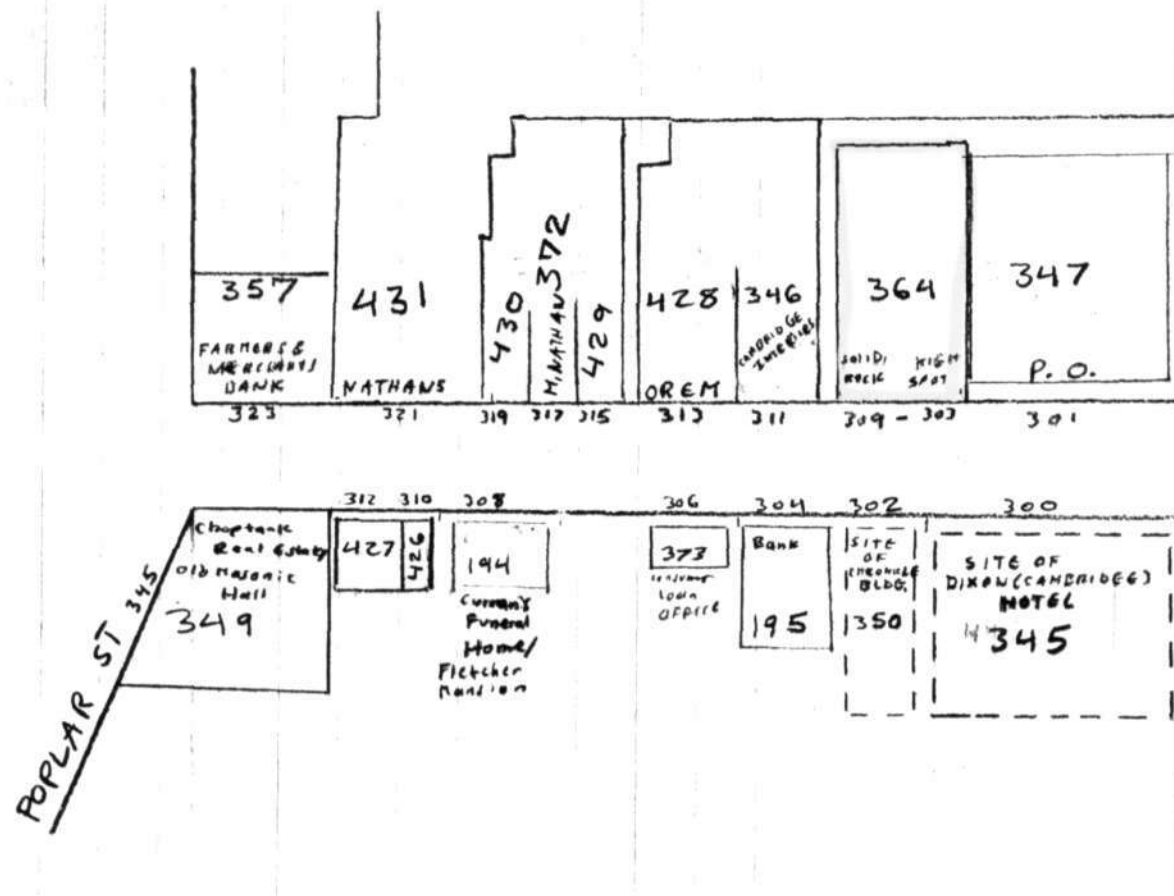
Cambridge

Maryland

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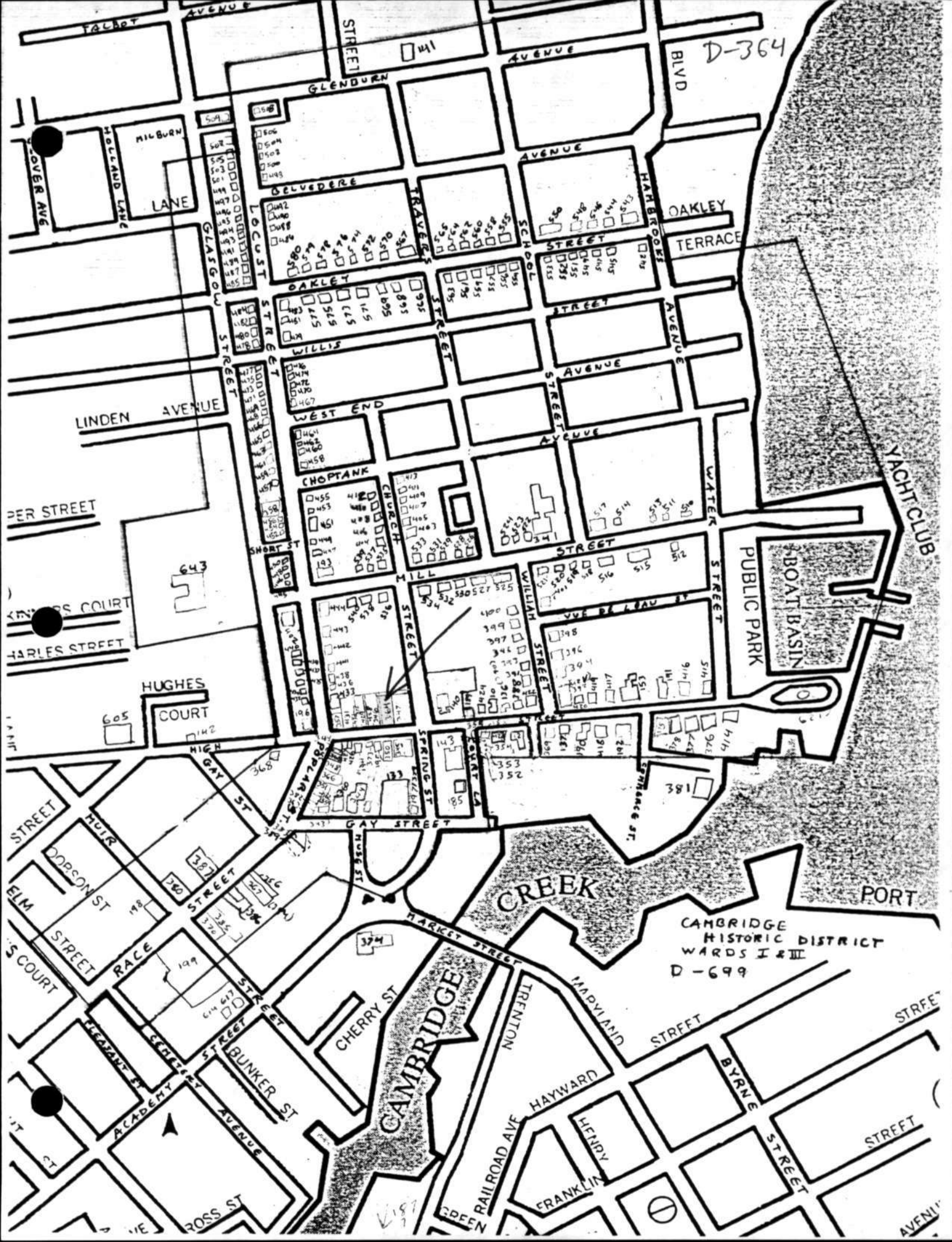
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

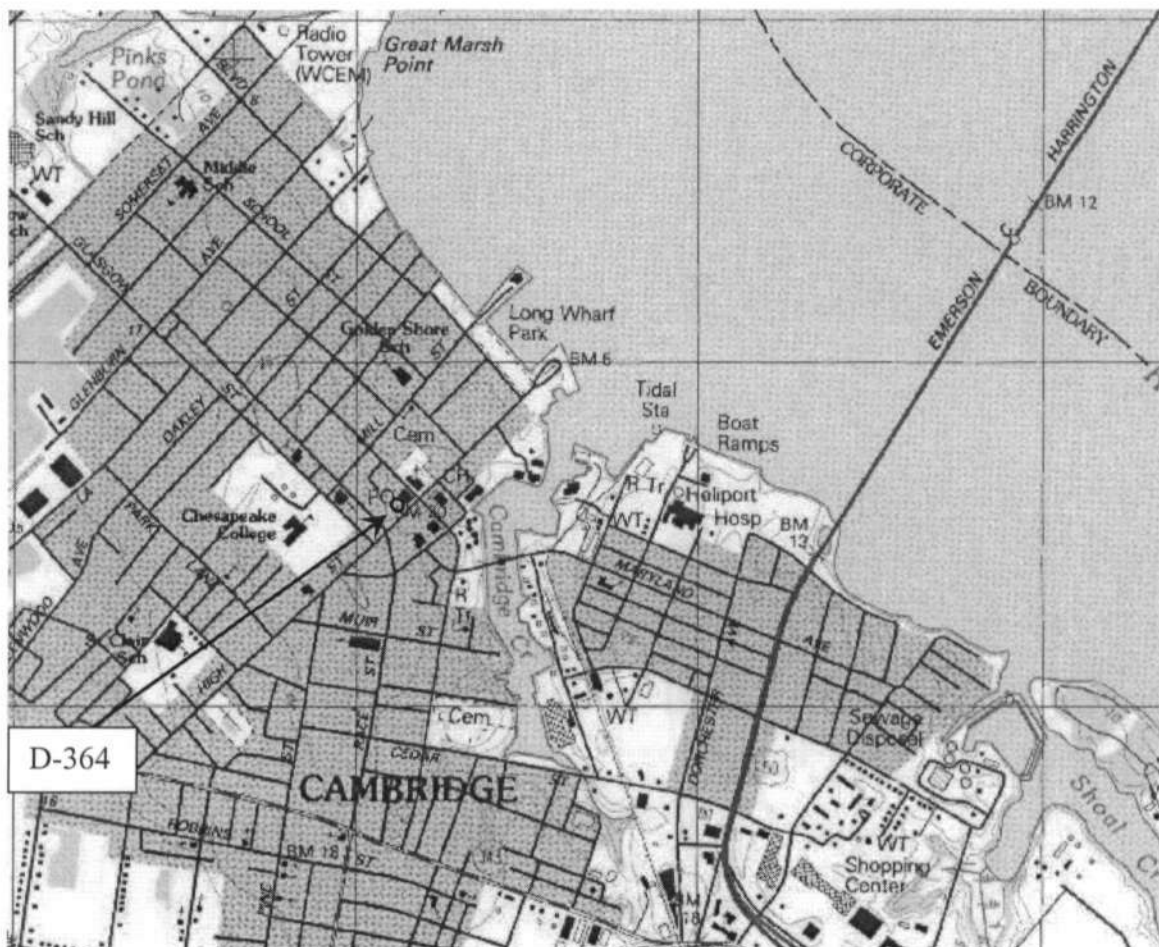


J. KOZLAY  
12/21/93

D-364



Dorchester Co.





303-309 HIGH ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - EAST FACADE -  
C.L. MOORE, 1976

(D-364)

48%